



BARTREAD



NEWSLETTER OF THE WARTIME VEHICLE
CONSERVATION GROUP, South Australia.

EDITORIAL



Greetings and welcome to issue 24 of your Club magazine, Bartread. Summer has well and truly arrived, and boy it's been HOT, wet, humid, and everything in between ! Having survived the silly season, the first run of the year was The Australia Day Parade in Adelaide. This year's Parade featured some unwanted controversy, with a large group of protesters pushing the concept of "Invasion Day". Let up hope this does not happen to future Parades. The big event, Corowa, is fast approaching with members attending looking forward to another cracker event ! I hope you all enjoy this edition, and remember to keep those articles coming in to your Editor !! (Please)

ISSUE 24, MARCH 2017

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A PHOTOGRAPHIC ROUNDUP
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AT ECHUNGA.

ALSO FEATRUED



STRANGE AND UNUSUAL
ARMOURED VEHICLES



ITEMS FOR SALE, including items
wanted.
PLEASE EMAIL DETAILS OF ITEMS
FOR SALE TO THE NEWSLETTER
EDITOR, INCLUDING PHOTOGRAPHS

"No newsletter editor is at all hours wise –
except when editing

2017 AUSTRALIA DAY PARADE

Australia Day marks the arrival of the First Fleet of British Ships at Port Jackson, New South Wales on that date in 1788, and raising the flag of Great Britain by Captain Arthur Phillip. Captain Arthur Phillip became the first Governor of the colony of New South Wales and the fledging colony soon began to celebrate the anniversary of this date. It has in the past been called **Foundation Day** and **Anniversary Day**, but is now celebrated across the nation as **Australia Day**. Now that we have all brushed up on our history, a full photographic roundup of the Australia Day Parade appears next page ...



2017 AUSTRALIA DAY PARADE IN ADELAIDE



Perfect weather greeted participants in this year's Australia Day Parade in Adelaide. A good showing of military vehicles participated and generated quite a lot of interest and enthusiasm from members of the public.





As in previous years, this Parade attracted representatives from many different countries and cultures, all of them proud to call themselves Australian. The bright colours and vibrant sounds made by the many peoples assembled, certainly contributed to the great atmosphere on the day. Impressively, some 3,000 people from over 100 cultural groups participated.

On a disturbing note however, a large group of protesters, who assembled opposite Elder Park, advanced toward the Parade on King William Street. This delayed the Parade and ultimately caused its diversion onto North Terrace. To spite this protest and the Parade being cut short, those who participated still felt it was a worthwhile and enjoyable event, but hopes are that this kind of demonstration will not be repeated in the future



33rd ALL BRITISH DAY, SUNDAY 12TH FEBRUARY

Following a week of extreme temperatures and high humidity, the 33rd All British Day was held on Sunday 12th February, at Echunga. On what turned out to be a cool overcast day, some 800 vehicles of British origin were displayed on the two adjoining sporting ovals. Your President in his Land Rover Perentie represented the WVCG. The National Military Vehicle Museum was also represented, again by a Land Rover Perentie, and in a strange twist of fate, the two vehicles ended up parked next to each other, as part of the Land Rover Register of South Australia's group of vehicles. (Yes indeed, more land fill than you could poke a stick at !!!)

This annual event, whilst obviously not being a dedicated military vehicle show, does provide for a great family day out, with a picnic atmosphere and lots of motoring marvels to admire. All in all – a great day out





And for those of us who like it a little LOUD, a Rolls Royce Merlin V12 was on display, and on four occasions throughout the day was given a run. To say the very least, a most impressive engine. Your Editor was left wondering what four of these would have sounded like on a British heavy bomber like a Lancaster !!

STRANGE AND UNUSUAL ARMoured VEHICLES



This example is the 1934 ***Tortuga***, designed and built in Venezuela. The vehicle's existence was designed to send a clear message to neighboring Colombia, which had previously created several border incidents. The shell of the vehicle was mounted on a Ford 6X4 truck. Its rear wheels were linked by treads, making it a half track. It was armed with a Mark 4B 7mm machine gun installed in a dome shaped rotating turret. The vehicle was difficult to maneuver, had poor visibility, no ventilation, and was not popular among the troops !

The ***Vickers D3E1***, designed in 1928, this tank would go on to become one of the most important designs of interwar years. The vehicle was classed as an armoured car, the idea was that it would run on wheels when possible, thus saving wear on the tracks. It was fitted with an Armstrong Siddeley V8, giving a top speed of 30 MPH on wheels and 13 MPH on tracks. The design of these vehicles was very cumbersome and mechanically complex, (British !!) and as such, they were never adopted into service.



This vehicle is a 1944 ***M4 T10 Mine Clearing Prototype*** vehicle, built by the US. The original design featured engines built into the two front wheels, but the idea never went past this 116,000 pound prototype.

This example comes straight out of Stalin's USSR, and is essentially a jet blower tank. All you need to make one is a **T-34 tank**, and fit it with a **MIG-15** jet engine on top. The blast from the jet engine would uncover and detonate land mines. (As a matter of interest, and nothing to do with this vehicle, your Editor is the proud owner of a cockpit clock from a Russian MIG 23 – Just to share that with you all- it is very nice !!)



This is the **M15A Gun Motor Carriage**, a WW2 design for an anti-infantry vehicle. Apparently the idea was it could fire in all directions without having to take the time to traverse a turret. There is not much known about this vehicle aside from the fact that only one prototype was ever built. One must wonder what the designers were thinking, as it would have been a sitting duck for any enemy tank it encountered, and with all those guns blazing away, how much ammunition would it have been able to carry ?

The **Kubus** was a Polish WW2 armoured car and armoured personnel carrier made by the home army during the Warsaw Uprising. A single vehicle was built on the chassis of a Chevrolet 157 truck and took part in the fight. The construction took only 13 days, from the decision to build it, to handing over to fighting units. Currently, the original Kubus is restored and is on display at the Polish Army Museum.

There is also a full scale replica built for the Warsaw Uprising Museum, which is in perfect condition and regularly participates in parades and reenactment shows.



THE CHRYSLER TV-8 NUCLEAR POWERED CONCEPT TANK

The Chrysler TV-8 was an extremely strange-looking medium tank concept which was developed in the 1950s. But if its appearance was odd, it was nothing compared to the proposed power source, a nuclear fission-powered vapor-cycle power plant located towards the rear of the main compartment!

Design work on the Chrysler TV-8 began in the early 1950s. The Chrysler Corporation wanted to build a tank which was different from all previous tanks, and one which also, in their eyes, was better.

The unconventional design of the TV-8 featured a modular construction, with the lower portion able to separate from the main body for easier transport. In addition, unlike most tanks, where the crew compartment is in the main body, and the rotating turret sits above. In the TV-8 the entire crew compartment, main gun and powerplant are all housed in one massive turret. The tank was designed to be manned by a crew of four, but if required it could be crewed by just two, the driver and gunner.

The Chrysler TV-8 was fitted with a 90mm T208 main gun with a hydraulic ram. The ammunition was stored behind a steel bulkhead separating the crew compartment. Two coaxial .30 caliber machine guns were located up front, and on the roof there was a remote control .50 caliber machine gun. The tank was also equipped with external video cameras relaying images to screens in the crew compartment. This was designed to allow the crew to see their surroundings without having to open any hatches, and also protect them from the flash of tactical nuclear explosions.

The tank's armor consisted of two layers around the crew compartment. The outer section acted as spaced armor to protect the inner layer by pre-detonating shaped-charge penetrating warheads, however its curved shape was also designed to deflect glancing rounds. The inner layer was composed of traditional thick metal plating.

Amazingly, despite its 25 ton weight, the Chrysler TV-8 was designed to float (due to its watertight turret), and it could even propel itself through the water using water jets located at the rear.

Aside from the nuclear powered option, Chrysler also had some more conventional drive system options, including an internal combustion V8 and a gas turbine engine. The only prototype of the TV-8 was fitted with a 300 horsepower V8 which acted as a generator to supply electricity to the two electric motors driving each of the 28-inch wide tracks.

In the end the project was abandoned. Chrysler were unable to convince the US military that their unusual tank offered any noticeable benefits in comparison with more conventional, and also much simpler designs already available. The TV-8 was finally canceled by Chrysler in 1956.



Chrysler TV-8
tank with vapour cycle nuclear power plant
Matej Furda 2008 www.hitechweb.genesis.eu



AND NOW FOR SOMETHING VERY DIFFERENT ...



Whilst surfing the net one day recently, your Editor came across this little known gem, regarded as one of the most bizarre armoured fighting vehicles ever made, the “Kugelpanzer”. (Kugelpanzer literally translates as “Ball Tank”) Attributed to the German company Krupp as the manufacturer, it was a one man light tank, believed most likely a reconnaissance vehicle armed with a single machine gun. It was powered by a single cylinder two stroke engine.

It is not known how many were produced, or whether they even advanced beyond purely the experimental phase. Only one example is known to exist at the **Kubinka** Tank Museum in Moscow, Russia. Reputedly this example was found in Manchuria by Soviet forces in 1945.

Now, hypothetically, one of these would surely get you noticed at any military vehicle gathering !



The next time you find yourself near downtown Moscow, why not visit the **Kubinka** Tank Museum? This is the largest tank museum in the world, and is located on a classified and functional Red Army testing facility.

Luckily, now that the Russians have embraced capitalism with such vigor, for a modest fee you can arrange a personally guided tour for yourself and experience the wealth of history on display, which not only includes Soviet armour, but examples from all over the world.

***** DON'T FORGET ! *****

COROWA IS COMING UP SOON

**IT WOULD BE GREAT TO SEE AS MANY WVCG
MEMBERS ATTENDING AS POSSIBLE.**

38th Annual Corowa Swim-In & Military Vehicle Gathering

All ex-military vehicles and enthusiasts are invited to attend

Monday 13th to Sunday 19th March 2017

Corowa, N.S.W.

**Ball Park Caravan Park
& Corowa Showground**

Corowa, NSW

Australia

Year of the International



Year of the Carrier 2



**THE 2017 THEME IS “THE YEAR OF THE INTERNATIONAL”
AND “THE YEAR OF THE CARRIER 2”**



This is a great event, and if you don't mind a 900 km – odd drive, you will not be disappointed ! Military vehicles from all over Australia and beyond will be in attendance. It is a great place to buy spare parts and more, from various traders throughout the week, and from the huge swap meet held on the Saturday. Come along, engage in some banter and see something really unique

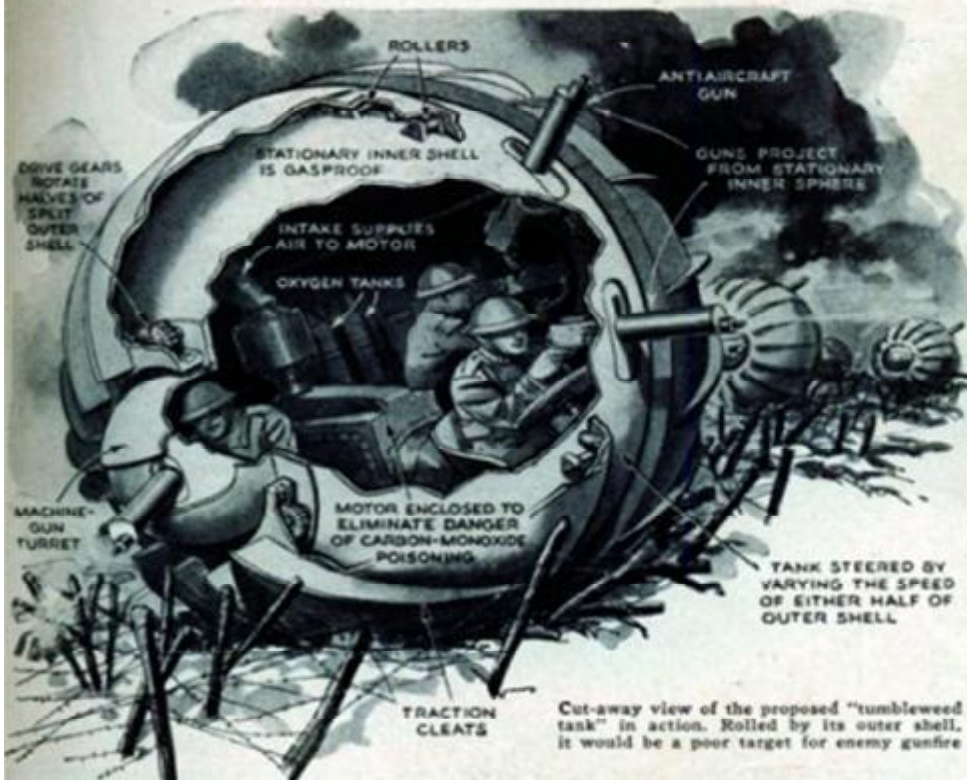


HAVE A LAUGH WITH SOME
MILITARY HUMOUR



Every British tank manufactured since the 1945 Centurion, and most armoured fighting vehicles, have a boiling vessel (BV) also called a kettle or bivvie. It provides boiling water for beverages, washing or other purposes and, at the same time, heat up tinned or decanted food for the crew. It's a square, watertight container which holds a gallon of water. It has heating elements and a tap. Fancy a cup of char ???

Novel War Tank Resembles a Rolling Ball

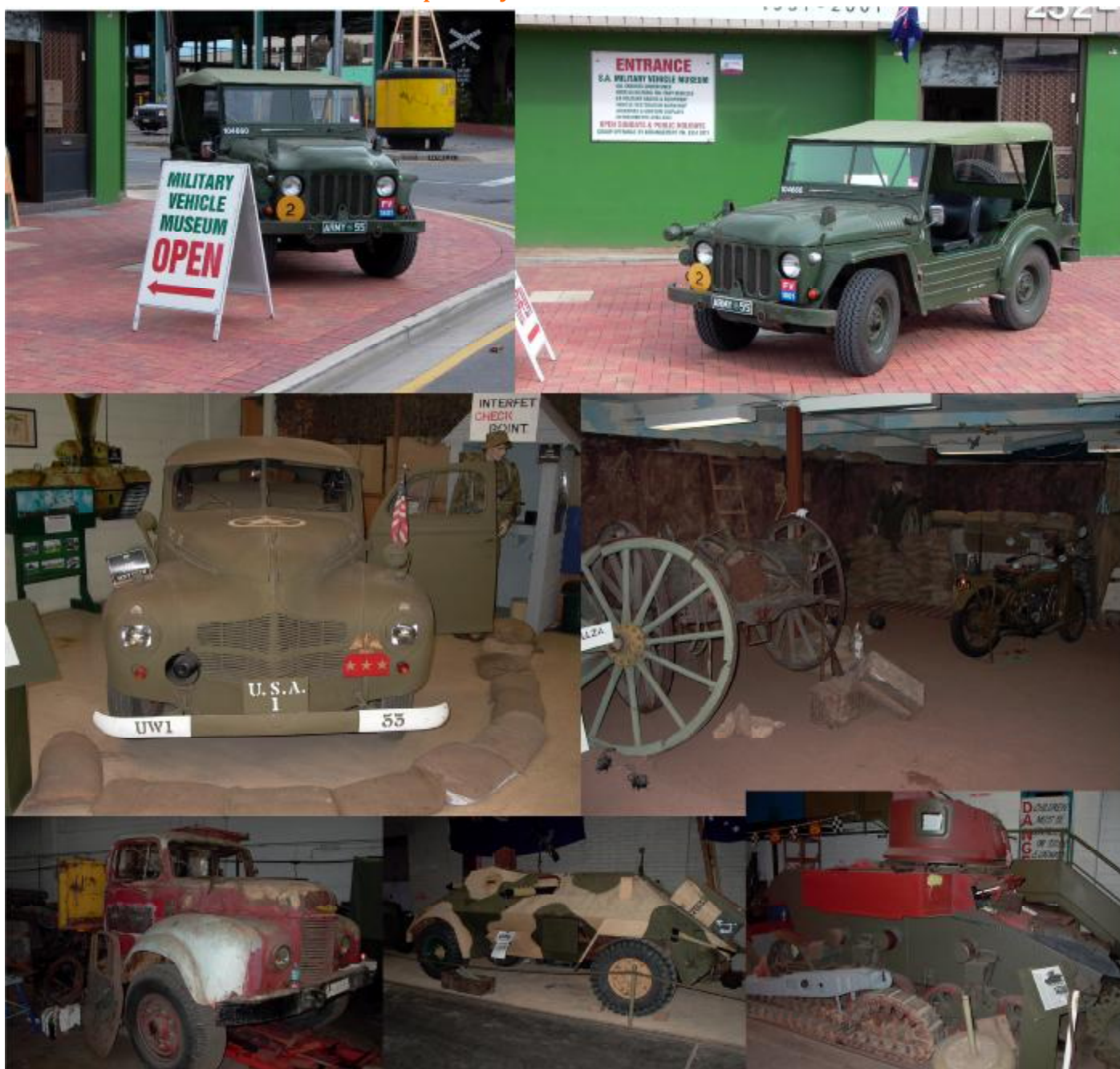


ROLLING over the ground like a giant ball, a high-speed "tumbleweed tank" proposed by a Texas inventor is a new addition to modern war machines. A spherical hollow steel driving cab is inclosed by a rotating outer shell consisting of two cup-shaped halves fitted with circular traction cleats. Motor-driven gears, mounted on the inner sphere, rotate the outer shells to roll the tank along the ground. Steering is effected by varying the speed of either of the rotating traction shells. Machine guns are fired from the stationary cab through central firing slots and armored turrets at the sides. The heavy driving motor, centrally placed on the cab floor, gives the tank stability and prevents it from rolling sidewise. The inner shell can be sealed against poison gas, while the power plant is completely inclosed to minimize the danger from exhaust fumes. The inventor states that the tank's spherical shape presents the smallest possible target for enemy bombs or shells, and all but direct hits would glance off its curved sides. Missiles penetrating the outer shells would have expended most of their force.

PAGES FROM THE PAST

Within this section of our Club Magazine, the Editor would like to include photographs and articles of interest, specifically relating to club members or those we might know. Events past, places that have changed or anything of an interesting historical nature would also be fine. Articles do not need to relate to military vehicles, but if they do, that's just Jim-Dandy ! The Editor would sincerely welcome any contributions to this section from members. So dust off those old photo albums, and let's see what we can come up with ...

Who remembers the National Military Vehicle Museum when it was located at Port Adelaide ? The site is now occupied by a well known fast food restaurant



PAGES FROM THE PAST



*** FOR SALE ***



For sale by the National Military Vehicle Museum – something to hang in the shed ?



Mick Jenner is currently exploring our options regarding new Club name badges for members – Watch this space !!



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CLASSIC MILITARY CLOTHING FOR SALE. ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE WVCG !



Items still remaining are as follows :

- Howard green jumper, size 95 – 105, in good used condition
- Service dress uniform, with trousers, size "39 portly", suit smaller person
- Battle dress trousers, size 82, in good condition
- Khaki service jumper, small men's size, well used
- Set of army greens, suit small man, well used, but still OK
- Black webbing parade belt (no brass)

THE BACK PAGE

Now here is something you don't see come up for auction every day !!



Adolf Hitler's 'mobile' telephone – recovered by a British officer from the Fuhrer's bunker after his death – is set to fetch in excess of \$500,000 at auction. The Nazi leader travelled everywhere with the blood red telephone and used it to issue orders that sent millions of people to their deaths. The phone – described as “virtually unequalled in historical importance” – was taken from the bunker by



Brigadier Sir Ralph Rayner. He was the first Briton to arrive at Hitler's Berlin hideaway after the feared dictator took his own life at the end of World War Two. Ralph was sent by Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery to meet with his Russian counterparts following the German surrender in May 1945. Russian troops gifted him the phone – which Hitler travelled with for the last two years of WWII – after he toured the bunker. When Ralph was summoned back to the UK by intelligence chiefs a month later he smuggled the incredible memento inside his suitcase. He refused to talk about his 'trophy' for decades because he feared he would be accused of looting – which was banned by military chiefs. Made by German electronics giant Siemens in 1943, it is chillingly engraved with Hitler's name. Ralph passed the phone on to his son Ranulf before his death in 1977 – and he has now decided to sell it. The phone is being sold by Alexander Historical Auctions in the USA later this year.



The rear of the phone, clearly showing the dictator's name.

Pictured on the right is the transport case for the phone which travelled extensively with the Nazi leader.

Interestingly, the seller struggled to find an auction house willing to accept the item for auction in the UK, perhaps because of its sinister nature. The number of terrible orders that would have been screamed into this instrument would be difficult to comprehend.





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2016 - 2017

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